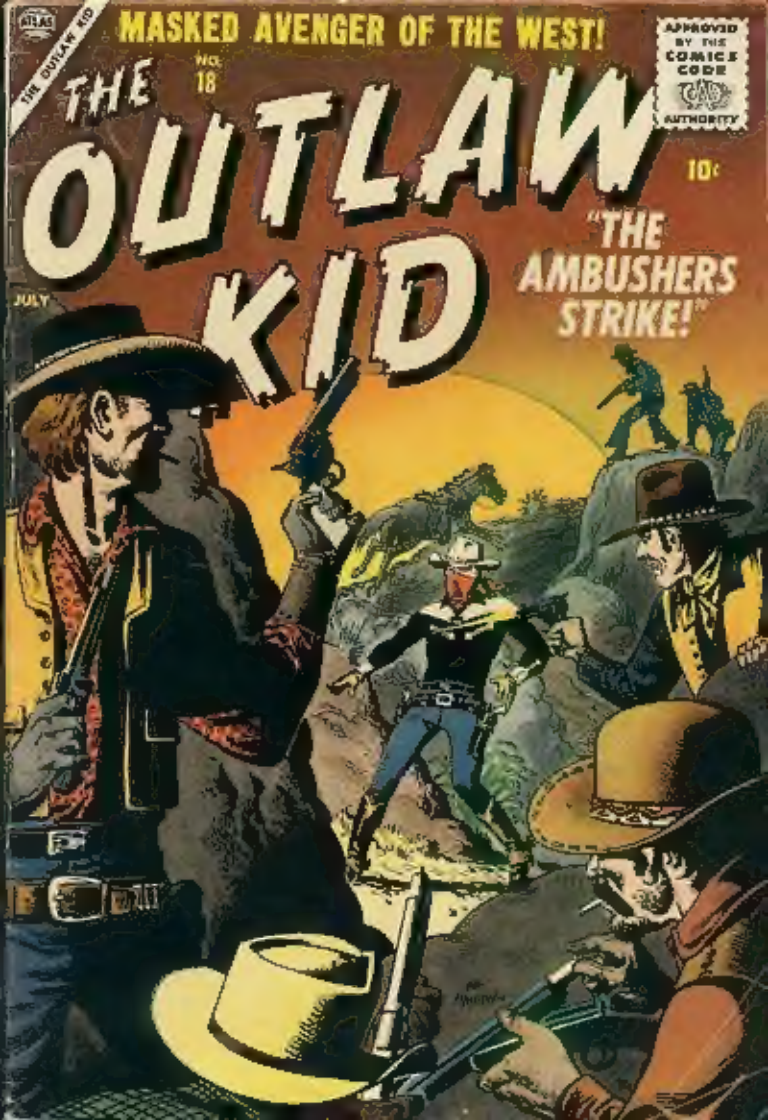

MASKED AVENGER OF THE WEST!
THE OUTLAW KID
ATLAS
NO. 18
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE OUTLAW KID
10¢
"THE AMBUSHERS STRIKE!"
JULY

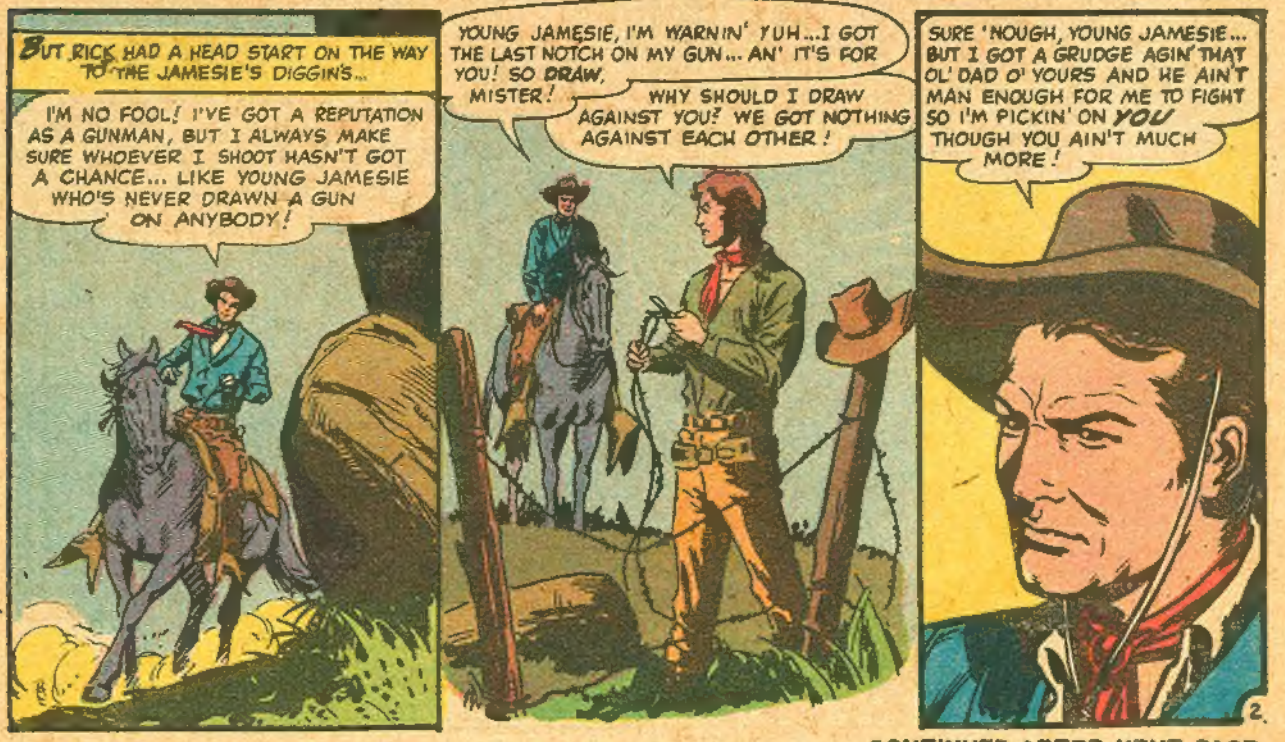
THE MARK OF SUCCESS OF THE WESTERN GUNMAN WAS THE AMOUNT OF NOTCHES HE CARVED ON THE HANDLE OF HIS GUN...ONE FOR EACH ENEMY HE SENT TO BOOT-HILL! RICK THORNE WAS ONE OF THE WORST OF THESE ANGRY MEN...AND SO SUCCESSFUL THAT HE HAD ROOM FOR ONLY ONE MORE ON HIS GUN BUTT...THIS WAS...

THE LAST NOTCH!

I DON'T CARE WHO YUH ARE OR HOW MEAN AND TOUGH A GUNMAN YUH ARE, RICK THORNE! I STILL SAY YUH CHEATED IN THIS HERE GAME!
TAKE IT EASY, JAMESIE! THAT'S NO WAY TO BE TALKIN' TO THORNE!
DON'T WORRY, YUH OL' PACKMULE! I'M NOT DRAWIN' ON YUH! I'LL JES' TAKE CARE O' YUH ANOTHER WAY!
YUH AIN'T GONNA SHOOT ME? THEN WHY ARE YUH CUTTIN' A NOTCH ON YORE GUN?
I GOT ROOM FOR ONLY ONE MORE, OLD-TIMER AND I'M SAVIN' IT FOR SOMEONE WORTH KILLIN'! AND I'M CUTTIN' THE NOTCH AHEAD O' TIME, TOO... LIKE I ALWAYS DO!
MIOB

WHO YUH MEANING TO GET, RICK?
I DON'T SHOOT OLD MEN... SO I'M GETTIN' HIS SON... YOUNG JAMESIE!
YUH EVER SEE ANYBODY WITH RICK'S NERVE? HE CUTS A NOTCH BEFORE HE GOES AFTER SOMEBODY... AND ALWAYS GETS HIM TOO!
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING, BOYS! MY SON... HE AIN'T A GUNFIGHTER! HE'S TOO YELLER!
WE CAN'T DO A THING, JAMESIE! THIS IS BETWEEN YOUR BOY AND RICK!
BUT IT AIN'T FAIR! YOUNG JAMESIE DON'T LIKE GUN-FIGHTIN'! WHY... HE RUNS FROM ANY KINDA SCRAP! I'M GETTIN' THE SHERIFF!

BUT SHERIFF MEAD AND HIS POSSE WERE OUT OF TOWN AND FOR A TIME, THE COUNTY WAS WITHOUT LAW...
THEN I GOTTA STOP RICK MYSELF! MY OWN SON A COWARD! WHY?


BUT RICK HAD A HEAD START ON THE WAY TO THE JAMESIE'S DIGGIN'S...
I'M NO FOOL! I'VE GOT A REPUTATION AS A GUNMAN, BUT I ALWAYS MAKE SURE WHOEVER I SHOOT HASN'T GOT A CHANCE... LIKE YOUNG JAMESIE WHO'S NEVER DRAWN A GUN ON ANYBODY!
YOUNG JAMESIE, I'M WARNIN' YUH...I GOT THE LAST NOTCH ON MY GUN... AN' IT'S FOR YOU! SO DRAW, MISTER!
WHY SHOULD I DRAW AGAINST YOU? WE GOT NOTHING AGAINST EACH OTHER!
SURE 'NOUGH, YOUNG JAMESIE... BUT I GOT A GRUDGE AGIN' THAT OL' DAD O' YOURS AND HE AIN'T MAN ENOUGH FOR ME TO FIGHT SO I'M PICKIN' ON YOU THOUGH YOU AIN'T MUCH MORE!
2.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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- ☐ C. Gold nuggets—$1
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- ☐ E. 10 cents—$2

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SUPER SMOKE SCREEN. Lights easily. Creates a huge column of thick white smoke that rises and expands into a dense cloud. Used for Tricks, T.V., Movies and Stage stunts. Sensational surprising effect.
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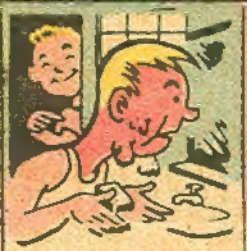

MAGIC SOAP POWDER. Sprinkle a little of this almost invisible magic powder on any soap. When anyone uses the soap their hands, and face will turn bloody red. Have fun! Drives them crazy! Harmless!
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Looks like you're really bleeding! Put a few drops on your skin, or the corner of your mouth and watch the faces of everyone who sees you—fright, horror, sympathy for your apparent suffering or injury. Looks like real blood, but it's harmless.
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SNEEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.
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BUT THE YOUNG COWBOY DIDN'T MOVE! SO RICK DREW HIS GUN...
SO YUH WON'T DRAW! WELL, YOU'RE YELLER ANYWAY! I'LL JES' SHOOT YUH AND TELL EVERYBODY YUH DID DRAW!
SHOOT ME IN THE BACK, RICK? HOW YUH GONNA MAKE FOLKS BELIEVE YUH SHOT ME FAIR AN' SQUARE THAT WAY?
I'LL MAKE YUH DRAW! HERE'S YORE POP! ARE YUH TOO YELLER TO TURN AROUND AND HELP HIM?
KEEP COMIN', YUH OLD GEEZER! I AIN'T GOT ROOM FOR ANOTHER NOTCH SO I'LL JES' NIP YUH A LITTLE!
OWW!
STAND BACK, DAD! I'LL HANDLE THIS BLOWHARD!
RUN WHILE YUH GOT THE CHANCE, BOY! HE'S STILL HOLDIN' HIS GUN!
HE HASN'T GOT IT NOW!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN FIGHTIN' WITHOUT A REAL GOOD REASON, THORNE! WELL, I'VE GOT A GOOD ONE NOW... SO GET UP, AND WE'LL FIGHT MAN-TO-MAN!
GLAD TO DO IT! YOU'RE STILL YELLER!
3

WHEN I GET THRU WITH YOU, I'LL BE ABLE TO START ON A NEW GUN... AND A FRESH BATCH OF NOTCHES!
SON, LOOK OUT! THAT HAND BEHIND HIS BACK!
WHO'S YELLER NOW, THORNE? YOU NEED A GUN TO DO YORE FIGHTIN' FOR YUH!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE... LONG'S I'M STILL ALIVE AND YO'RE DEAD! THAT LAST NOTCH, FELLAH, I GOTTA LIVE UP TO IT!
HEY! THIS AIN'T SAVIN' YUH! I'LL GET YUH YET!
IT'S GOTTA BE MAN-TO-MAN LIKE I SAID!
THE LAST NOTCH! I GOTTA LIVE UP TO IT! I GOTTA!
KA-POW!
I GOTTA... OHMM!
BANG!
HE FELL AGIN HIS OWN GUN, BOY! HE DIDN'T KNOW IT... BUT THAT LAST NOTCH WAS FOR HIMSELF!
HE MADE ONE BIG MISTAKE, DAD! NOBODY CAN BE SO SURE OF WHAT'S GOIN' TO HAPPEN... THAT HE CAN BANK HIS WHOLE LIFE ON IT!
I'LL TELL THE SHERIFF WHAT HAPPENED, DAD! RECKON HE'LL BELIEVE ME?
SURE, SON! AND I'M HAPPY TO FIND OUT THAT YUH AIN'T YELLER... BUT THE SQUAREST GUY IN THE WHOLE COUNTY! ANYBODY KIN BE BRAVE WITH A GUN IN HIS HAND.. IT TAKES REAL COURAGE TO FACE A GUNMAN EMPTY-HANDED AND MAN-TO-MAN!
THE END

OUTLAW KID
25¢
8
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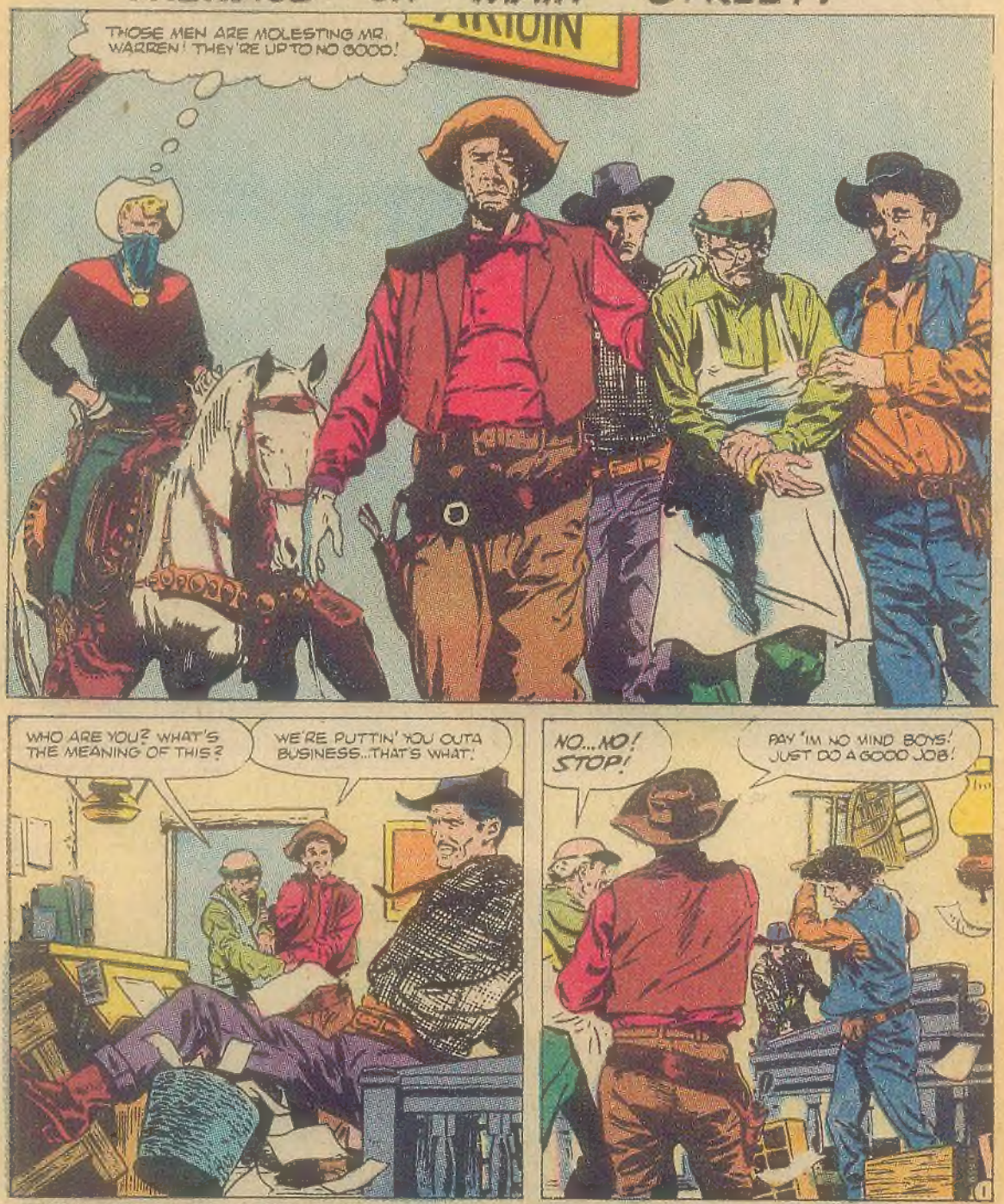
02496
THE OUTLAW KID
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WESTERN ACTION THE WAY YOU LIKE IT!!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SIX-GUN PAY-OFF!
PLUS: 6 MORE WILD-AND-WOOLLY OUTLAW KID CLASSICS!

THE OUTLAW KID

A CONSTANT DEFENDER OF THE PEACE, TRUTH AND THE RIGHTS OF HIS FELLOW MAN, THE *OUTLAW KID* FACED HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE...

MENACE ON MAIN STREET!


THOSE MEN ARE MOLESTING MR. WARREN! THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
WE'RE PUTTIN' YOU OUTA BUSINESS...THAT'S WHAT!
NO...NO! STOP!
PAY 'IM NO MIND BOYS! JUST DO A GOOD JOB!

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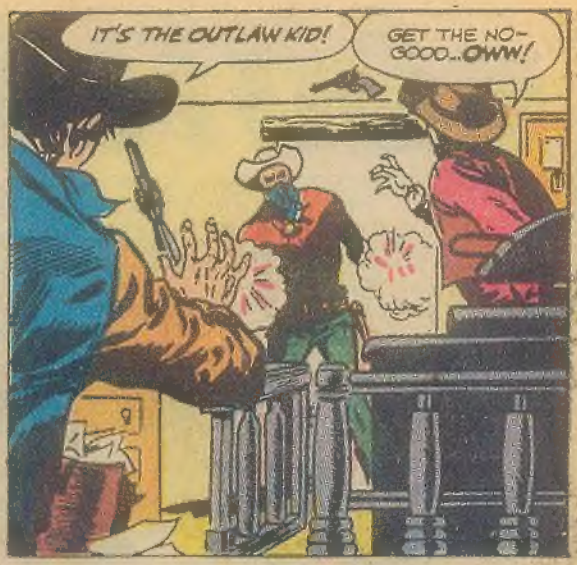
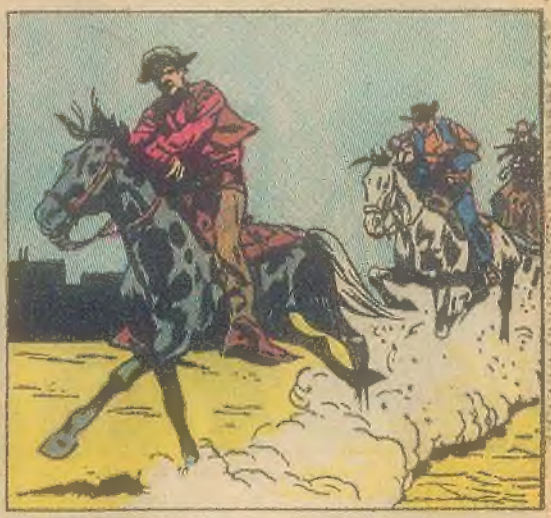
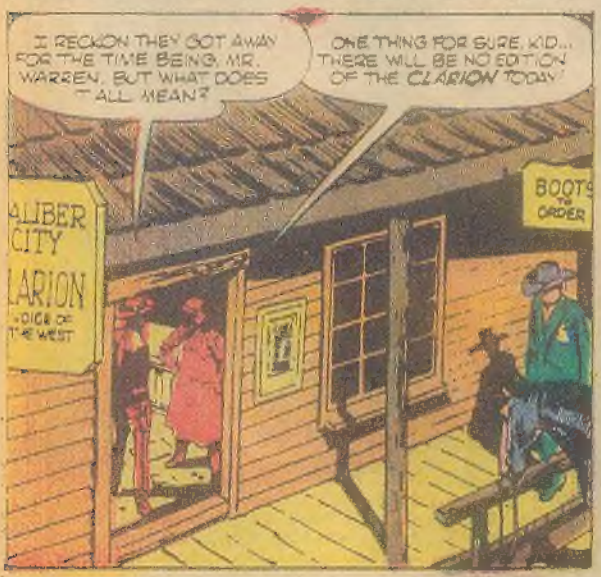


STRIPPED OF THEIR GUNS BY THE KID'S PINPOINT FIRE, THE PANICKED GUNMEN RACED FOR THE DOOR...

AND IN ANOTHER MINUTE, THEY WERE THUNDERING OUT OF TOWN...

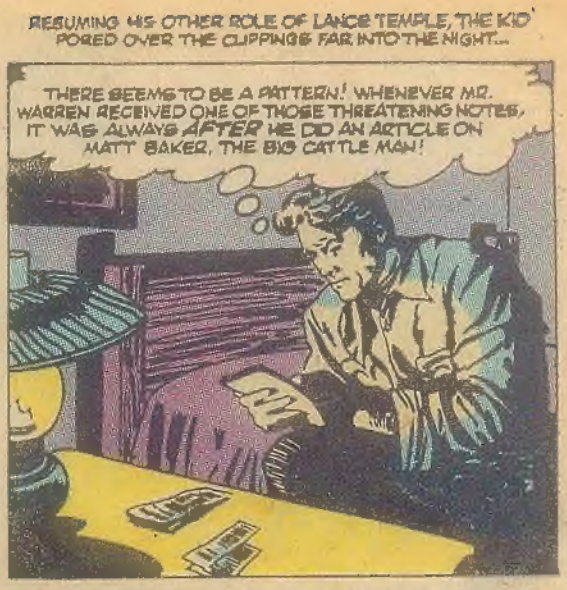


A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN THE SMALL NEWSPAPER OFFICE...

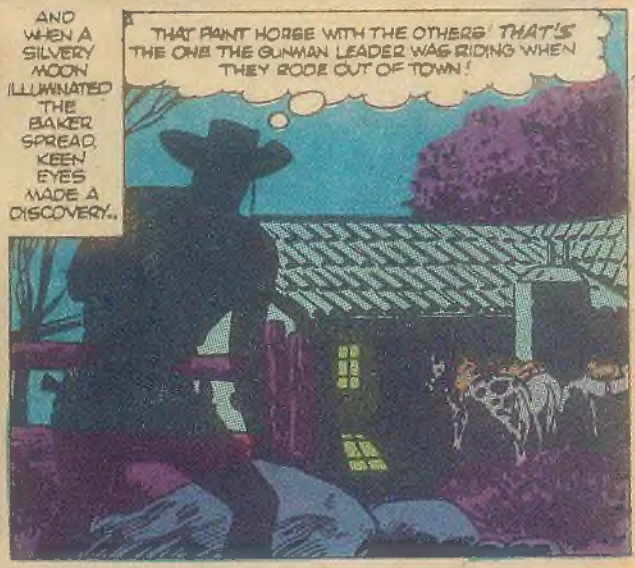

I RECKON THEY GOT AWAY FOR THE TIME BEING, MR. WARREN. BUT WHAT DOES "ALL MEAN?
ONE THING FOR SURE, KID... THERE WILL BE NO EDITION OF THE CLARION TODAY!
BOOTS TO ORDER
ALIBER CITY
LARION

AN ATTACK ON A NEWSPAPER IS SERIOUS BUSINESS! I WANT TO HEAR EVERYTHING YOU'D CARE TO TELL ME!
ALL RIGHT, KID... BUT IT WON'T BE ANYTHING POSITIVE! YOU JUDGE FOR YOURSELF!
BULL

AN HOUR LATER...
IT SEEMS THAT MR. WARREN RECEIVED ALL KINDS OF THREATS, BUT ALWAYS ANONYMOUS ONES! ANYWAY, I'LL GO THROUGH THESE CLIPPINGS HE GAVE ME AND SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN!


RESUMING HIS OTHER ROLE OF LANCE TEMPLE, THE KID PORED OVER THE CLIPPINGS FAR INTO THE NIGHT...
THERE SEEMS TO BE A PATTERN! WHENEVER MR. WARREN RECEIVED ONE OF THOSE THREATENING NOTES, IT WAS ALWAYS AFTER HE DID AN ARTICLE ON MATT BAKER, THE BIG CATTLE MAN!

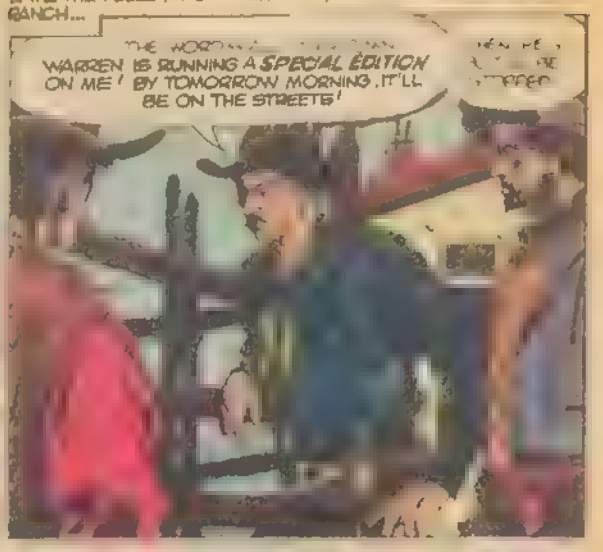
THIS WAS THE LAST ARTICLE, AND IT APPEARED ONLY YESTERDAY! THIS IS SOMETHING FOR THE OUTLAW KID TO CHECK INTO!
MATT BAKER
FRIEND OR FOE
OF SMALL RANCHER?


AND WHEN A SILVERY MOON ILLUMINATED THE BAKER SPREAD, KEEN EYES MADE A DISCOVERY..
THAT PAINT HORSE WITH THE OTHERS! THAT'S THE ONE THE GUNMAN LEADER WAS RIDING WHEN THEY RODE OUT OF TOWN!

WASTING NO TIME, THE KID RODE BACK TO TOWN TO CONFER WITH MR. WARREN..
THEN YOU'LL DO IT... JUST THE WAY I WANT IT?
OF COURSE, KID! I TRUST YOU IMPLICITLY!

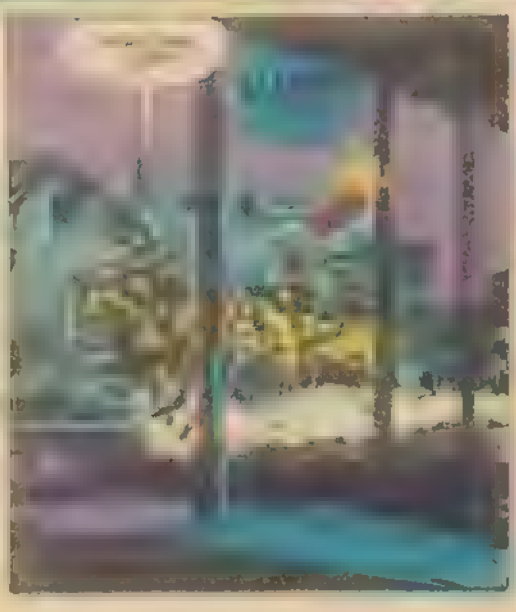
AND YOU'LL SEE THAT THE WORD GETS AROUND?
BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON, THE WHOLE TOWN WILL KNOW THAT I'LL BE PUTTING OUT A SPECIAL EDITION ON MATT BAKER!

THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE DONE NOW, BUT WAI AND HOPE!


LATE THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, AT THE S RANCH...
WARREN IS RUNNING A SPECIAL EDITION ON ME! BY TOMORROW MORNING, IT'LL BE ON THE STREETS!

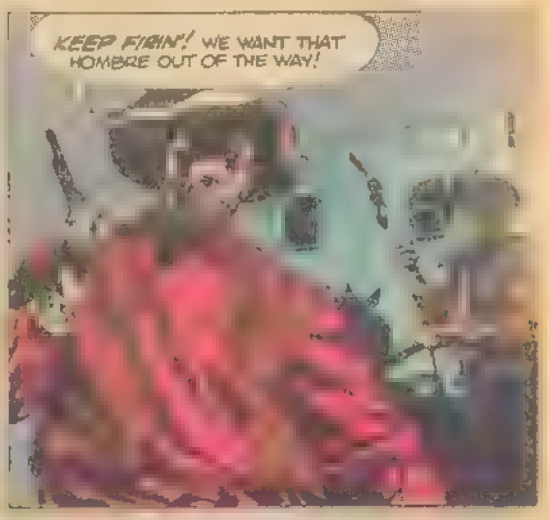
NAMES. MY PLANS ARE DOOMED!

NOT NEVER TO PREGG AGA.N!

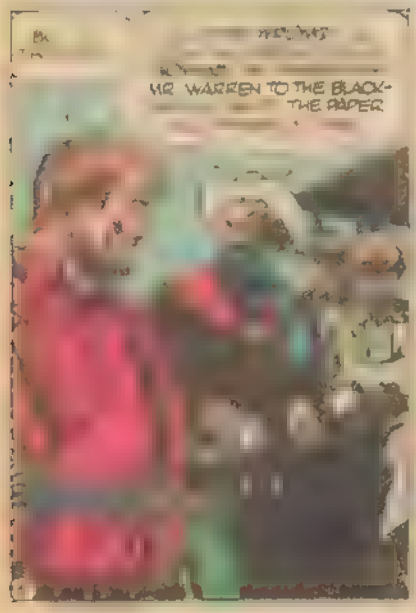


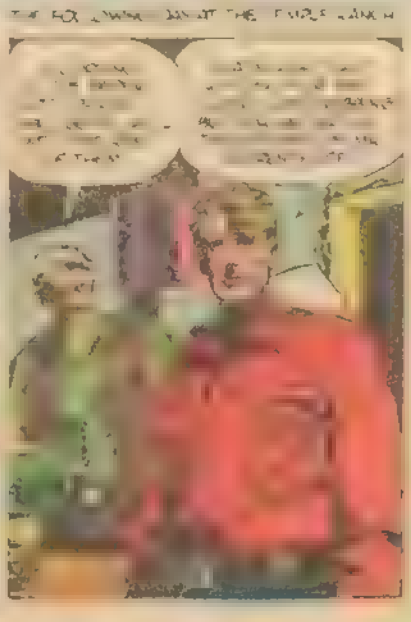
BOOM

THEN THE AIR ROCKED TO THE BLAST OF SIX-GUNS, WHILE ORANGE FLAME PIERCED THE NIGHT...



IT WAS OVER IN SECONDS, WITH THE KID IN THE THICK OF IT AT THE VERY END...





THE OUTLAW KID

TROUBLE WAS ONE THING THE OUTLAW KID AVOID BUT IF IT CAME HIS WAY, HE WAS NEVER KNOWN TO RUN.

YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG KID THERE'S NOTHIN CROOKED ABOUT THE CRYSTAL PALACE I WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT!

I'M NOT SO SURE OF THAT TRAVIS

YOU'VE BEEN KICKED OUT OF A DOZEN TOWNS FOR OPERATING A CROOKED CASINO I DON'T TRY ANY OF YOUR TRICKS HERE.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT TAKE 'IM, BOYS

THE GUNMEN MOVED BUT THE KID WAS LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING

OHHH!

BLAM BLAM!

SHOOT

I'M SPREADING THE WORD ON YOU, TRAV'S. BEFORE ANOTHER DAY PASSES, PEOPLE IN CALDER CITY
AND WHEN THE K.D. LEFT
WE'RE DONE FOR, TRAV'S. THE K.D.'S WORD CARRIES A LOT OF WEIGHT IN THESE PARTS
MEBBE, BUT NOT FOR LONG
LIKE WHAT?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA. AND IF IT WORKS THE WAY I THINK IT WILL, THE K.D.'S REP WILL CHANGE FROM GOOD TO BAD OVERNIGHT!
AND SCARCELY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER...
DON'T BE A FOOL, K.D.! IF YOU NEED THE MONEY, I'D BE...ONHHH!
YOU'RE
NOT ON YORE LIFE! TOSS THAT PAYROLL DOWN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I KILLED THE BEST FRIEND THIS TOWN EVER
AND ALL FOR A FEW DIRTY DOLLARS
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CRYSTAL PALACE ..
THEY'RE STIRRED UP ALL RIGHT! THEY'RE FORMIN' GUN PARTIES! IF THE KID SHOWS UP IN TOWN, THEY'LL SHOOT ON SIGHT AND ASK QUESTIONS LA
GOOD!
TOUCHED 'EM! THEY CALLED ME A KIND, GENEROUS MAN! HAW, HAW, HAW!
OTHER ROLE OF EASY-GOING LANCE TEMPLE...
HEARD ALL I CARE TO!

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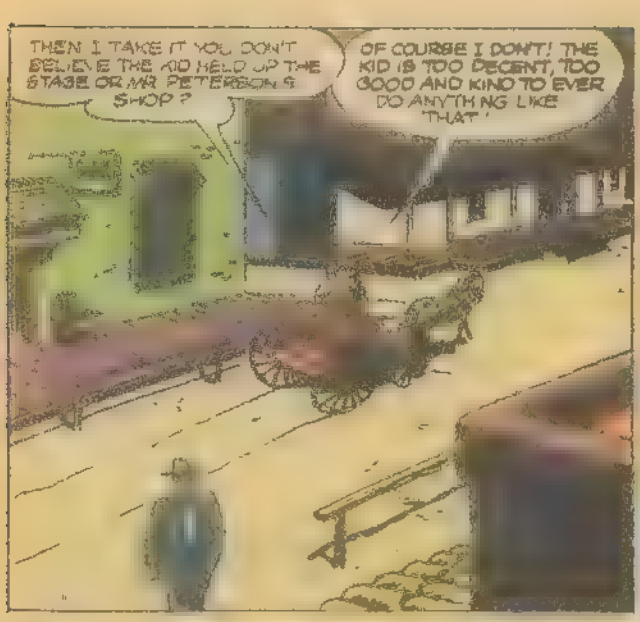
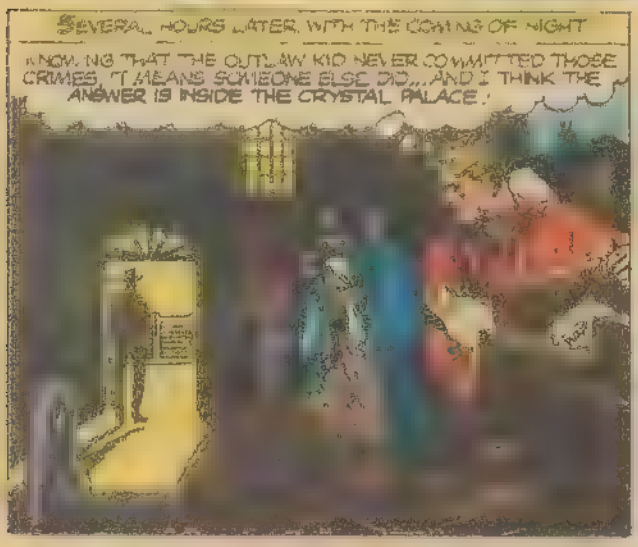
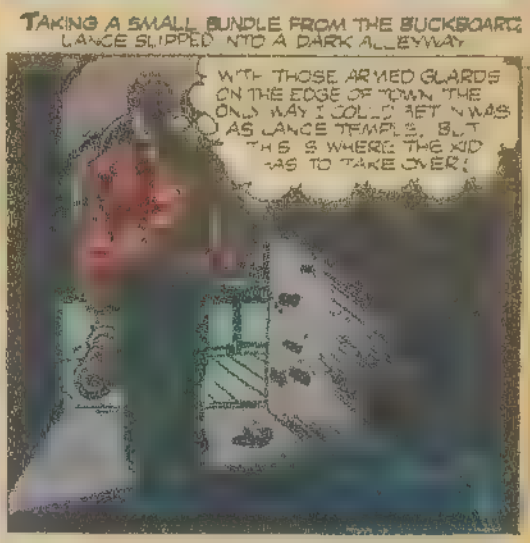
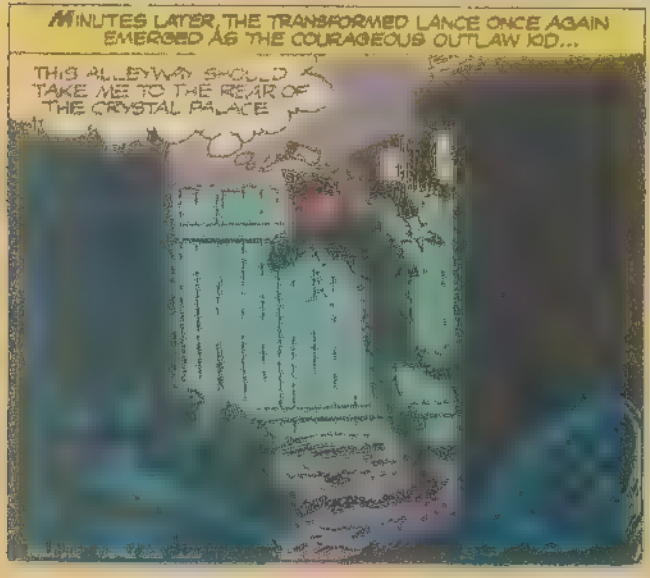

THEN I TAKE IT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THE KID HELD UP THE STAGE OR MR PETERSON'S SHOP?
OF COURSE I DON'T! THE KID IS TOO DECENT, TOO GOOD AND KIND TO EVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

WHY HE WOULDN'T HURT A FLY LET ALONE..
YOU CAN STOP RIGHT THERE, BELLE. FURTHERMORE, I AGREE WITH YOU!

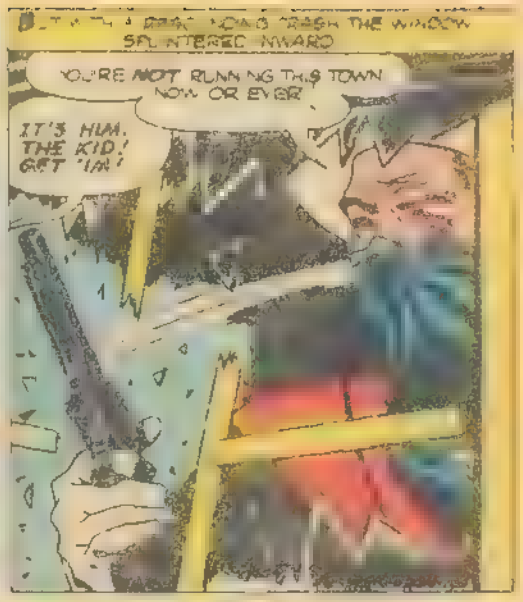

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, WITH THE COMING OF NIGHT
KNOWING THAT THE OUTLAW KID NEVER COMMITTED THOSE CRIMES, IT MEANS SOMEONE ELSE DID...AND I THINK THE ANSWER IS INSIDE THE CRYSTAL PALACE!

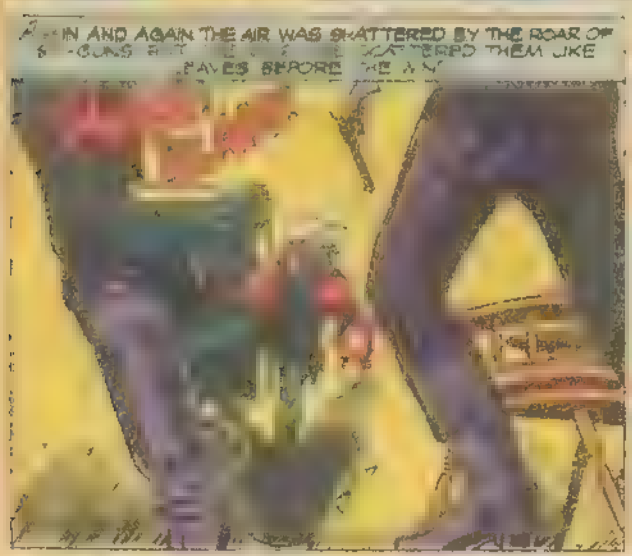

TAKING A SMALL BUNDLE FROM THE BUCKBOARD, LANCE SLIPPED INTO A DARK ALLEYWAY
WITH THOSE ARMED GUARDS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN, THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET INWAS AS LANCE TEMPLE. BUT THIS IS WHERE THE KID HAS TO TAKE OVER!

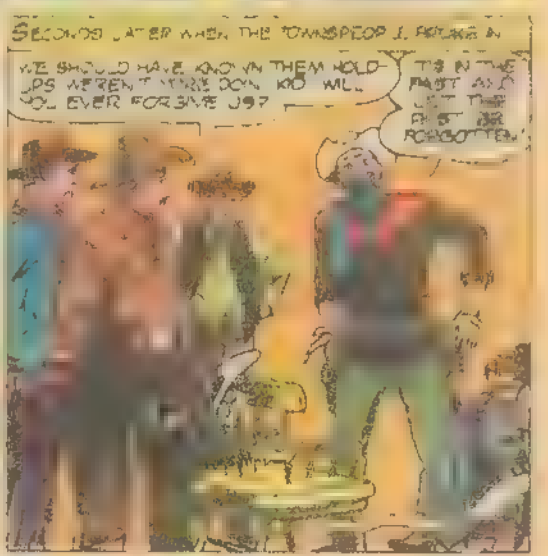

MINUTES LATER, THE TRANSFORMED LANCE ONCE AGAIN EMERGED AS THE COURAGEOUS OUTLAW KID...
THIS ALLEYWAY SHOULD TAKE ME TO THE REAR OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE

YOU MEAN I HAFTA DO IT ONCE MORE?
RIGHT! THIS'LL CINCH IT! ONE MORE JOB LIKE THE OTHER TWO, AND THE OUTLAW KID IS FINISHED FOR GOOD!

ANOTHER HOLDUP IN THE KID'S SET UP AND HE'LL NEVER SET FOOT IN THIS TERRITORY AGAIN. WE'LL RUN THIS TOWN LOCK STOCK AND BARREL
ALL RIGHT I'LL DO IT


BUT WHEN I DRAW YOU'LL TRASH THE WINDOW SPLINTERED INWARD
YOU'RE NOT RUNNING THIS TOWN NOW OR EVER
IT'S HIM. THE KID! GET 'IM!


AGAIN AND AGAIN THE AIR WAS SHATTERED BY THE ROAR OF SHOTGUNS BUT THE VOLLEY SCATTERED THEM LIKE LEAVES BEFORE THE WIND


SECONDS LATER WHEN THE TOWNSPEOPLE REJOICE IN
WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEM HOLDUPS WEREN'T HIS DOING. KID WILL NEVER FORGIVE US?
IT'S IN THE PAST AND LET THE DEAD BE FORGOTTEN.

I'M JUST GLAD WE GOT HERE IN TIME TO RESCUE MISS BELLE FROM ANOTHER TROUBLE BRINGING HOLDUP
I'D BE GLAD TO RESCUE MISS BELLE

I JUST KNEW YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD
AS LONG AS YOU HAD FAITH IN ME EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO TURN OUT ALL RIGHT
THE END

THE OUTLAW KID

OUTLAW KID IN THE DOUBLE BUT BEFORE HE COULD BRING HIS FAMOUS COLTS INTO ACTION, THE DAMAGE WAS DONE!

THE AMBUSHERS STRIKE!

SECONDS LATER, AS THE KID RECOVERED...

HE'S DONE FOR KID! DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE AND THE KILLERS GOT AWAY!
POOR OLD DUFFER! HE WAS AS GENTLE AS THEY COME. WOULDN'T HURT A FLY

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, WHEN PETERS PROPERTY WENT UP FOR AUCTION.

THAT NIGHT, TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF THUNDERING HOOFS, THE OUTLAW RODE FORTH...

AS SINCE TEMPLE HO THE VOW I MADE MY FATHER TO SHUN VIOLENCE, MY HANDS ARE TIED! BUT AS THE OUTLAW KID I AM FREE TO ACT, AND THIS IS ONE TIME I MUST!

AND WHEN HE ARRIVED IN TOWN...

A LIGHT IN WAYNE'S OFFICE... AND LONG AFTER BUSINESS HOURS TOO!

AND OUTSIDE IN THE ALLEY I WONDER WHAT SORT OF CLIENTS WAYNE WOULD BE HAVING THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

AND INSIDE THE OFFICE

YOU AIN'T FOOLED JE WAYNE! THAT BOTTOM LAND OF PETERS' AIN'T ALL CLAY, NOW I KNOW WHY YOU PAID US TO AMBUSH HIM!

WHAT YOU KNOW WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD..

HERE'S THE BALANCE ON WHAT I OWE YOU. MY ADVICE IS YOU TAKE IT AND CLEAR OUT.

"NO" SO FAST

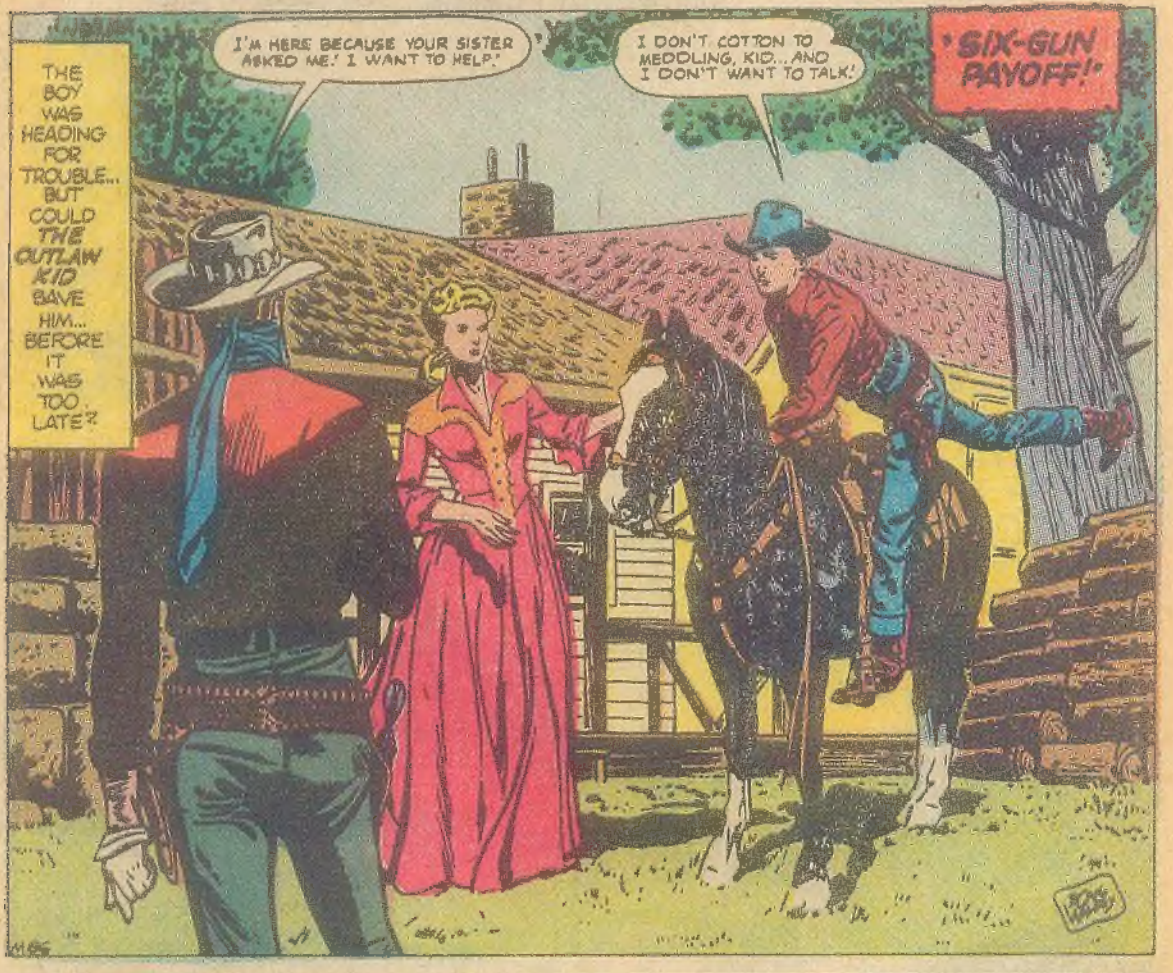
THERE'S GOLD UNDER THAT CLAY, TOP-SOIL, AND WE WANT OUR SHARE!

THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL GET...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

ONLY YOU'RE GETTING LEAD!
OHH!
GIT ...
LET'S CLEAR OUT!
BANG!
LIKE A CLAP OF THUNDER, THE DOOR BURST IN ON ITS HINGES, AND THE STACCATO ROAR OF THE FAMED COLTS FILLED THE ROOM.
AND SO ARE YOU!
WAS GOLD
I DON'T FORGET
DEATH AS WELL!
DON'T FORGET
OUT AHEAD KID, GO!
JUSTICE

THE OUTLAW KID


THE BOY WAS HEADING FOR TROUBLE... BUT COULD THE OUTLAW KID SAVE HIM... BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE?
I'M HERE BECAUSE YOUR SISTER ASKED ME! I WANT TO HELP!
I DON'T COTTON TO MEDDLING, KID... AND I DON'T WANT TO TALK!
"SIX-GUN PAYOFF!"

I'M WORRIED, KID! HE'S ONLY A BOY, BUT HE'S BEEN KEEPING BAD COMPANY LATELY!
DON'T WORRY, MISS WEBSTER! I'LL TRAIL AFTER HIM, JUST TO BE SURE!

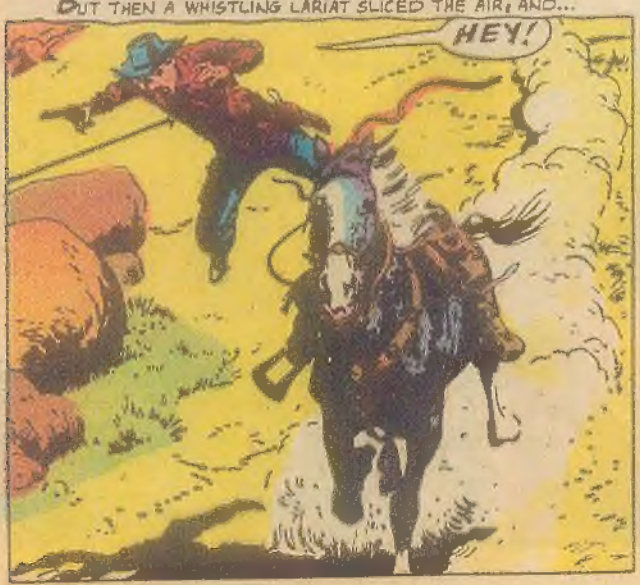
BUT SHORTLY AFTERWARD, WHEN THE KID PICKED UP THE TRAIL...
HE ISN'T IN SIGHT. I WONDER IF HE DOUBLED BACK TO THROW ME OFF?
THESE ARE HIS PRINTS ALL RIGHT, BUT THEY SEEM TO BREAK OFF ABOUT HERE...
BUT A MOMENT LATER...
OHHH!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM TO MEDDLE! MAYBE NOW HE'LL LEARN TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
A WHILE LATER, AS THE KID CAME TO...
I SURE LEFT MYSELF... WIDE OPEN! I RECKON HIS SISTER IS RIGHT! THAT BOY IS HEADING FOR TROUBLE... AND FAST!
AND AT A RENDEZVOUS POINT NOT FAR OFF...
WE WERE WONDERING, DOUG! THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WEREN'T SHOWIN' UP!
NOTHING LIKE THAT! DIDN'T I GIVE MY WORD?

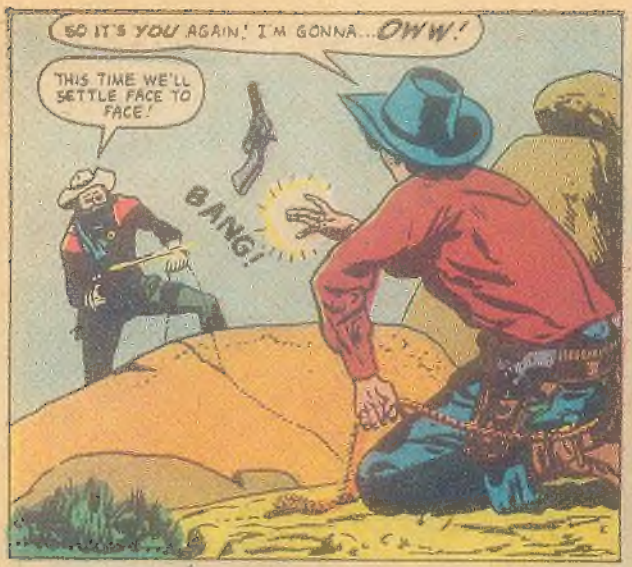
THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS! WE'RE NOT GOIN' TO RUSTLE A FEW HEAD OF CATTLE! WE'RE TACKLIN' THE AFTERNOON STAGE INSTEAD!
THE STAGE, BUT I THOUGHT...

NOT LONG AFTERWARD, WHEN THEY SPOTTED THEIR QUARRY FROM HIGH GROUND...

DOWN THEY CAME, THEIR SIX-GUNS SPLITTING THE AIR WITH THUNDEROUS BURSTS...

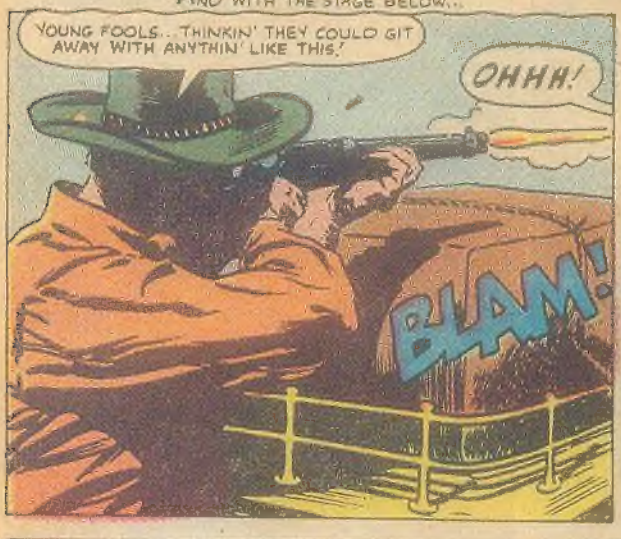
BUT THEN A WHISTLING LARIAT SLICED THE AIR, AND...





MAYBE I'M WRONG, BUT FROM WHAT YOUR SISTER SAID, YOU MIGHT BE WORTH SAVING! ONLY IF YOU WANT IT ROUGH, I'LL PLAY IT ROUGH!
I DIDN'T WANNA TACKLE THE STAGE, HONEST... KID!

AND WITH THE STAGE BELOW...



ANNE WAS RIGHT! I WAS GETTING INTO TROUBLE! AND ALL BECAUSE I WAS SHOWIN' OFF... BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT WEARIN' GUNS AND RIDING WITH MEN LIKE FOX AND CARTER WOULD MAKE ME A MAN!

LATER, AT THE RANCH...

I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THE KID'S EXAMPLE! THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN I WANT TO BE, SIS!
DO THAT, DOUG, AND YOU CAN'T GO WRONG! THAT'S FOR SURE!
THE END